



DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE

NEWS RELEASE

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Tangible Ballots Initiative Enters Circulation

Tangible Ballots. Direct-Recording Electronic Devices. Statute.

SACRAMENTO — Secretary of State Debra Bowen today announced that the proponent of a new initiative may begin collecting petition signatures for his measure.

The Attorney General prepares the legal title and summary that is required to appear on initiative petitions. When the official language is complete, the Attorney General forwards it to the proponent and to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State then provides calendar deadlines to the proponent and to county elections officials, and the initiative may be circulated for signatures. The Attorney General's official title and summary for this measure is as follows:

TANGIBLE BALLOTS. DIRECT-RECORDING ELECTRONIC DEVICES. STATUTE. Amends definition of "ballot" to confirm that votes on a direct-recording electronic device must result in a paper or other tangible ballot. Eliminates the touchscreen on a direct-recording electronic device from the definition of "ballot." Expands definition of "ballot" to include physical objects that may be indelibly marked by voters' physical action and are susceptible to counting through use of ordinary physical senses. Does not prohibit use of legally approved methods of voting or vote counting, so long as tangible physical object results. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: One-time costs potentially in the tens of millions of dollars to replace or alter voting equipment. (Initiative 07-0021.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1257 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 07-0021.

The proponent for this measure, Harry V. Lehmann, must collect the signatures of 433,971 registered voters – the number equal to 5% of the total votes cast for governor in the 2006 gubernatorial election – in order to qualify the measure for the ballot. The proponent has 150 days to circulate petitions for this measure, meaning the signatures must be collected by December 31, 2007.

The initiative proponent can be reached at (415) 897-2121.

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